

General Post-Office,
Hongkong, 20th December, 1871.

It is hereby notified that henceforward the postage on letters addressed to Newfoundland, which must be paid in advance, will be as follows, viz.:-

When forwarded via.....	3½ cents each 1-ounce.
Brindisi.....	3½
When forwarded via.....	34
Marseilles.....	34
When forwarded via.....	34
Southampton.....	34

F. W. MITCHELL,
Postmaster General.

General Post-Office,
Hongkong, 22nd February, 1873.

Extracts.

POINTS OF VIEW.

It is a curious thing, too, to note the different way in which the same affects or interests people. A grand monument does not inspire all beholders with awe and a sense of the sublime, nor does the sea give every one an idea of space, power, grandeur, and depth. As a rule, I am inclined to think familiarity with nature, if it does not breed contempt, does not inspire any particular reverence. For instance, the minor is not at all a creature of the earth, but rather regards it as a means to enable him to revel in unlimited beer on Saturday night. The moon, I suppose, has as much weak sentiment to answer for as anything in nature, and I imagine it really does invoke whatever there is of pensiveness, melancholy, or sentiment in most people, though to the multitude it is entirely uninteresting and commonplace. The professional way of looking at things is also a curious thing, too, this I suppose, proceeds from the mind being trained in one groove, from which it finds it difficult to depart. In fact, the view one takes of right and wrong seems to me, in a great measure, dependent upon one's rearing and education. At all events, when one takes the wrong view, it would be comforting to be able to lay the faulting question to one's soul that it is owing to one's parents not having successfully drilled right and wrong; just as a painter would be apt to regard facts as points, were he not otherwise taught. It may be said that light would not be tolerable if we all saw things in the same light. For instance, if all mankind, brought into contact with the object of my affections, regarded it as a piece of wood, as the stone sculptor does, or as a piece of wax, as the potter does, it would be a very different thing. Suppose we all regarded in deeming Tammyson the greatest of our living poets, many an embryo poet would lack encouragement to rise. A certain amount of resistance, opposition, or difference in the way of looking at things seems to me necessary, or we should utterly collapse. What would become of the resistance? I think, therefore, we may look upon opposition, or difference of opinion, like gravitation, as one of nature's great laws; and it certainly cropped up to their places, his regular man, in a woman, viz., in the difference of opinion as to the advisability of eating certain fruit. The point, however, that appears to me difficult to ascertain, is where this difference in looking at things first appears, and how it is caused? Is it the exception, now, rather than the rule, that it is as the cock crows, so grows the cockerel, and yet one would think this a natural state of things, as similarity in the way of looking at things must arise from the effect of early education and surrounding circumstances, and therefore must be, while the child is in its infancy, controlled to a certain extent by its parents. Cannot a generation be so reared, that they may grow up as one man? Mr. Cole would show up the right view to take of things in general? I suppose that it really depends upon one's stomach, temperament, or intellect, but that anything else. It is to be hoped, however, that, upon the whole, there is a preponderance of people who look at things in a right light, over those who look at things in a wrong one. Here, however, I feel rather "confounded," as, after all, who shall determine which is the right and which the wrong view? Feeling that I am rapidly getting out of my depth, I will quit my subject here, before quite losing my feet.—*St. Paul's Magazine.*

THE IRELAND OF TO-DAY.

(From "Ireland in 1872," by Dr. James Macaulay.)

I was wandering on day in Kilkenny, watching the Kerry peasants at morning work, when a grand scene was seen moving up the long main street of the town. As it drew near it proved to be a funeral, and I heard what, from description, I knew to be the "keen" or wail of mourners. There were about a dozen elderly women, in two rows, walking in front of the hearse. They had the long darks and the joyful shawl or kerchief of the country. One woman, who was in the chief position, leading the dirge, the others joining in the melancholy wail. In an Irish ear following the hearse were four women, relatives of the deceased. Every now and then they uttered cries, and the natural and uncontrolled expressions of passionate grief, less formal than the keen of the old women in front, but in the same minor key of plaintive bewilderment and tears, curts and various vehicles followed with female mourners, and a dense crowd on foot closed up the procession. The burial was to be at a rural churchyard some miles off. Shutters were put up in the windows of the town, and every mark of respect paid to the funeral passed by. In reply to inquiries, I learned that the deceased was a tradesman of the town, an O'Donoghue, "one of the decent people." "Was he an old man?" "No, he was only a boy," which might denote any age from ten to fifty or more. "Was these keeners paid?" "No, they attend only out of respect to the family." The use of professional keeners or hired mourners is going out. These old women, however, were experienced performers, and the "keen" will not soon be a thing of mere tradition. The women who attend to the "keen" in kind if not in coin, for there is always plentiful supply in houses between the time of death and burial. A "decent funeral" implies many guests, though not necessarily with the scandalous scenes of former times. In Mr. and Mrs. C. Hall's "Ireland," the writers say—"We followed, in 1859, a funeral to Aglish; there were attendant keeners, who chanted the death song nearly all day long. The 'keen' is held often here now, and the ceremony connected with death here of late has much of their earlier, more picturesque, but more barbarous accompaniments." Hundreds of tourists have visited Ireland without hearing the "keen," and I was told that I might be many years without seeing a funeral such as I had witnessed at Kilkenny. It was a strange and unexpected incident, and as the wail echoed in my memory, the whole scene seemed representative of the transition state of Ireland, and of a time when many "old things are passing away." Wakes, with their strange wailing of mourning and merry-making, are becoming rare, even in rural districts. The clergy, greatly to their credit, discontinue and even from the altar denounce them, on account of the immorality and immorality to which they give occasion. There was never a death in a house but the place was for two or three days and nights made a common resort for the friends and neighbours of the deceased. Among the poor peasants the customs brought their own supplies of drink and tobacco, but in a farmer's house all comers were entertained at the host's expense. The original intention of wakes and feasting, and the gossiping and revelry that went on, has become a very different thing, but the old custom is still in vogue. The reader remember, the scene in "Castle Rackrent," where Sir Condy took it into his head to know what the people would say of him after he was gone? "Thady," says he, "as far as the wake goes, send I might without any great trouble have the satisfaction of seeing a bit of my own funeral." So Thady and his "alister" contrived a sham sickness and sham death, and he was laid out properly. There came a throng of men, women, and children, till the house was as full and fuller than it could hold. The joke had very nearly a tragic end, for what with the heat and the smoke and the noise, Sir Condy was nearly stifled.

Insurances.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this Port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$500,000 on Buildings, or on Goods stored thereon.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents, 24th Street, 1873.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.

CAPITAL—TWO MILLION STERLING.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this Port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$100,000 on Buildings, or on Goods stored thereon.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents, 24th Street, 1873.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM and after this date, a Discount of 20 per cent on the current rates of Premium will be allowed to all contributors.

ROBERT S. WALKER & Co., Agents, 1182 Hongkong, 24th June, 1873.

YANG-TSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF SHANGHAI.

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS 755,000 TAELS.

DOUGLASS granted on Marine Risks to all parts of the World, at current rates. This Association will, until further notice, provide out of the earnings, first for an interest dividend of 15% for shareholders on Capital, and thereafter distribute among Policy holders annually, until the end of the year 1874, the following Business pro rata to amount of premium contributed.

RUSSELL & Co., Agents, 1182 Hongkong, 24th July, 1873.

Insurances.

BATAVIA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this Port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$500,000 on Buildings, or on Goods stored thereon.

RUSSELL & Co., Agents, 1182 Hongkong, 1st April, 1873.

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF MANCHESTER AND LONDON.

THE Undersigned have been appointed Agents for the above Company at Hongkong, Canton, Fookchow, Shanghai, and Hankow, and are prepared to grant Insurances at Current Rates.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co., Agents, 1182 Hongkong, 15th October, 1869.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this Port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$400,000 on Buildings, or on Goods stored thereon.

DOUGLAS LAFRAIR & Co., Agents, 117 Hongkong, 24th November, 1869.

VICTORIA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HONGKONG, LIMITED.

THIS Company, with its Head Office at Hongkong, and Agencies at the various Treaty Ports in China and Japan, is prepared to issue Policies of Insurance, at the current rates of Premium at the respective places.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co., Secretaries, 457 Hongkong, 1st April, 1871.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM this date, until further notice, a Discount of Twenty per cent (20%) upon the current local rates of premium will be allowed upon insurances effected with this Company.

DOUGLAS LAFRAIR & Co., Agents, 1182 Hongkong, 27th June, 1872.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM this date, until further notice, a Discount of Twenty per cent (20%) upon the current local rates of premium will be allowed upon insurances effected with this Company.

DOUGLAS LAFRAIR & Co., Agents, 1182 Hongkong, 27th June, 1872.

LONDON AND ORIENTAL STEAM TRANSPORT INSURANCE OFFICE.

137, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON.

THE Undersigned is authorized to accept risks on behalf of this Office, by First Class Steamers and Sailing Ships.

A. McIVER, Agent, 1182 Hongkong, 1st July, 1872.

OCEAN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1855.

CAPITAL, \$1,000,000.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to accept Marine Risks and Insure Policies at current rates.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co., Agents, 1182 Hongkong, 7th June, 1867.

BATAVIA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned are now prepared to grant, on behalf of the above Company, Policies against Fire on First-class Buildings, to an extent of \$500,000.

A discount of Twenty per cent (20%) upon the current local rates will be allowed on all premium charged for insurances; such discount being deducted at the time of the issue of policy.

RUSSELL & Co., Agents, 1182 Hongkong, 1st January, 1873.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM and after this date, the following rates of Insurance will be charged on SHORT PERIOD Insurances, viz:—

Not exceeding 1 month, 1/10 of the annual rate.

Above 1 month, and not exceeding 3 months, 2/10 of the annual rate.

Above 3 months, and not exceeding 6 months, 3/10 of the annual rate.

Above 6 months, the full annual rate.

On and after this date, a discount of 20 per cent of the above rates will be allowed to Insurers.

GILMAN & Co., Agents, 1182 Hongkong, 24th June, 1872.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE COMPANY.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE FIRST, A.D. 1720.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Insurances as follows:—

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Policies at current rates; payable either here, in London, or at the principal Ports of India, China, and Japan.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates.

A discount of 20% allowed.

Policies issued for sums not exceeding \$5,000, on reasonable terms.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co., Agents, 1182 Hongkong, 20th July, 1872.

TRANSATLANTIC FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to accept risks against Fire, subject to a bonus of 20 per cent.

SIEMSEN & Co., Agents, 1182 Hongkong, 15th November, 1872.

THE GLOBE MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, LONDON.

THE OOSTERLING SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF BATAVIA.

THE SAMARANG SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF SAMARANG.

THE Attention of Shippers is called to the low rates of Premiums charged by the undersigned Agents of above named Companies, for all steamers risks, subject to a brokerage of 15 per cent.

The "Overseas," as well as the "Globe," after paying the Shareholders a dividend of 10 per cent on their paid-up Capital, distribute 25 per cent of the surplus of the profits pro rata amongst such of the Insurers as have paid during the year 2500 and upwards in premium.

Particulars can be obtained at the Office of SIEMSEN & Co., Agents.

1182 Hongkong, 15th October, 1872.

NOTICE.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE annual rates for Fire Insurance on the various classes of Buildings and their contents will remain as follows until further notice.

Detached and semi-detached Dwelling Houses (removed from the town and their contents). 1 percent.

Other Dwelling Houses (including their contents). 1 percent.

Offices and Godowns and their contents. 1 percent.

Other Risks by Special arrangement.

The following rates will be charged for SHORT PERIOD Policies:—

Not exceeding 10 days, 1/10 of the annual rate.

Not exceeding 1 month, 1/10 of the annual rate.

Above 1 month, and not exceeding 3 months, 2/10 of the annual rate.

Above 3 months, and not exceeding 6 months, 3/10 of the annual rate.

Above 6 months, the full annual rate of 1/10.

ROBERT S. WALKER & Co., Agents, 1182 Hongkong, 1st September, 1869.

Insurances.

NOTICE.

FROM and after this date, the following rates of Insurance will be charged for SHORT PERIOD Insurances, viz:—

Not exceeding 10 days, 1/10 of the annual rate.

Above 1 month, and not exceeding 3 months, 2/10 of the annual rate.

Above 3 months, and not exceeding 6 months, 3/10 of the annual rate.

Above 6 months, the full annual rate of 1/10.

Agents, J. J. McIVER & Co., 1182 Hongkong, 24th August, 1869.

NOTICE.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE following rates will be charged in future for SHORT PERIOD Insurances, viz:—

Not exceeding 10 days, 1/10 of the annual rate.

Above 1 month, and not exceeding 3 months, 2/10 of the annual rate.

Above 3 months, and not exceeding 6 months, 3/10 of the annual rate.

Above 6 months, the full annual rate of 1/10.

Agents, J. J. McIVER & Co., 1182 Hongkong, 24th August, 1869.

NOTICE.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM and after this date, the following rates of Insurance will be charged for SHORT PERIOD Insurances, viz:—

Not exceeding 10 days, 1/10 of the annual rate.

Above 1 month, and not exceeding 3 months, 2/10 of the annual rate.

Above 3 months, and not exceeding 6 months, 3/10 of the annual rate.

Above 6 months, the full annual rate of 1/10.

Agents, J. J. McIVER & Co., 1182 Hongkong, 24th August, 1869.

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Not exceeding 10 days, 1/10 of the annual rate.

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Agents, J. J. McIVER & Co., 1182 Hongkong, 24th August, 1869.

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Above 3 months, and not exceeding 6 months, 3/10 of the annual rate.

Above 6 months, the full annual rate of 1/10.

Agents, J. J. McIVER & Co., 1182 Hongkong, 24th August, 1869.

Insurances.

CHINA AND JAPAN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE ATTENTION OF SHIPPERS is called to the future distribution of the Profits of this Company, viz:—(3/4ths) of the Profits, after payment of interest, will now be divided amongst all Contributors of business, whether Shareholders or not, in proportion to the amount of Net Premium contributed.

WM. PUSTAU & Co., Agents, 1182 Hongkong, 9th April, 1872.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG. AGENTS at all the Treaty Ports of China and Japan, and at Singapore, Saigon, and Fooking.

Risks accepted, and Policies of Insurance granted at the rates of Premium current at the above-mentioned Ports.

No charge for Policy fees.

JAS. B. COUGHRAN, Secretary, 1182 Hongkong, 1st November, 1871.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM and after this date, the following rates of Insurance will be charged for SHORT PERIOD Insurances, viz:—

Not exceeding 10 days, 1/10 of the annual rate.

Above 1 month, and not exceeding 3 months, 2/10 of the annual rate.

Above 3 months, and not exceeding 6 months, 3/10 of the annual rate.

Above 6 months, the full annual rate of 1/10.

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